

of my district's electricity needs. These groups rely heavily on risk mitigation provided by this bill. If the federal government overly regulates the use of risk mitigation, industries and constituents within my district will see hikes in their monthly energy bills.

H.R. 2289 will allow American business to run as intended without new burdensome regulations and red-tape from bureaucratic government agencies. Most importantly this bill allows the American economy to do what it does best producing the world's food and fiber while supplying affordable energy.

I congratulate Chairman CONAWAY on a well crafted bill and a thorough committee process and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the underlying bill.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2685) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment aiming to expedite cleanup within a neglected category of defense sites in my state and nationwide.

During World War II, while our troops were fighting abroad, facilities across the nation here at home were busy creating the supplies and provisions that fueled our efforts. One such site is Gopher Ordnance Works in my district. The Gopher Ordnance Works site was built and operated by the federal government during World War II for the production of smokeless gunpowder and nitric and sulfuric acids. The then-existing War Department acquired approximately 12,000 acres of farmland near Rosemount, Minnesota for the construction of the plant. After the war was won and the efforts at home wound down, the Department of the Army declared the Gopher Ordnance Works to be surplus property, and the facilities on the land were partially deconstructed. Unfortunately, some of the structures and many of the contaminants remain to this very day, more than 60 years later.

Over the years the federal government realized sites like Gopher Ordnance Works must be cleaned up. Accordingly, Congress created the Formerly Used Defense Sites—or FUDS—program as part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program in the mid-1980s. The goal of the FUDS program is to clean up these sites so they can be put back into productive use and no longer pose a potential health threat to our constituents.

Mr. Chair, the site in my district is not unique. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains an inventory of FUDS properties nationwide, and per the Army Corps, there are almost 10,000 potential properties that could qualify, with up to 2,700 of those requiring some sort of cleanup. Every single state in our nation, the District of Columbia, and our territories all have sites within their respective borders. This issue affects all of our constituents.

It is unacceptable to take so long to make so little progress in addressing these sites. It is worse if the cleanup delay is due to legal disputes over FUDS properties or simple lack of knowledge about what contaminants are present. This is the case in one subset of the FUDS program categorized as Potentially Responsible Party—or PRP—sites. PRP sites are locations where the Department of Defense as well as other parties potentially contributed to the contamination. Instead of acting on these sites and putting them back into productive use, PRP sites get mired in extensive site studies and disputes over who left what at the site.

Mr. Chair, Gopher Ordnance Works in my district is a PRP site that has not received appropriate attention from the federal agencies delegated with the authority to resolve liability and move forward with cleanup. For more than a decade, I have advocated tirelessly to the Army Corps in an attempt to facilitate cleanup and navigate its backlogged bureaucracy. Enough is enough. I am asking the Army Corps to prioritize PRP sites and move forward expeditiously toward a solution for environmental investigation and pollution cleanup costs at Gopher Ordnance Works. I am here, ready, and available to offer what assistance is necessary in Congress on behalf of my constituents. I expect the Army Corps and the Department of Defense to fulfill their mission, committing to their responsibilities toward real, productive solutions.

The underlying bill funds environmental restoration for all FUDS properties. My amendment would have required no less than \$10,000,000 of the Environmental Restoration—Formerly Used Defense Sites funds to be available for remedial investigations on the too often neglected PRP sites, removing one obstacle that is preventing these sites from becoming usable.

While it is regrettable the House Parliamentarians ruled that procedures and protocols of the House prevent this particular bill from being a vehicle to fix this problem, I will continue my efforts so these sites can finally be cleaned and restored, resolving this issue once and for all in support of our communities.

CONGRATULATING THE AL WEST
COLLISION CENTER OF ROLLA

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Al West Collision Center of Rolla on their grand opening and ribbon cutting that took place on June 1st. Not only did they host a successful event kicking off the start of their business, but were able to raise money for local charities in the process.

Over 100 people gathered at the Al West Collision Center to celebrate their grand opening. The cornerstone of the event was a raffle to win a Dodge Challenger, with one hundred percent of the profit going to two local charities. The first charity the raffle benefited is the Association of United States Army Wounded Warriors which supports wounded and severely disabled Army veterans and their families in the Rolla area. The second charity, the Greater Rolla Area Charitable Enterprise, as-

sists needy families in a variety of ways from providing them with food to even helping pay the bills. I'm proud of Missouri small businesses who give back to their community such as the Al West Collision Center.

For the money that was raised for local charities through their raffle, and to celebrate their recent grand opening, it is my pleasure to recognize the Al West Collision Center of Rolla before the House of Representatives and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on June 9, 2015, I was unavoidably detained during a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on the following Roll Call votes: #309, on final passage of the Commodity End-User Relief Act and #329, on final passage of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016.

HONORING MS. ANNETTE GUMM

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Annette Gumm, who, after years of service to Palm Beach County, is leaving the area. I speak for the citizens of Palm Beach County when I say that she will be greatly missed.

Ms. Gumm's public service in Florida began when she moved to Gleneagles in 1986 following an early retirement. She quickly became involved in her new community by volunteering with Plumosa Elementary School and Delray Community Hospital. In 1992, she was asked to join the campaign of Burt Aaronson; and, following his victory, she served as the Commissioner's administrative aide for several years.

Ms. Gumm also joined the Atlantic Democratic Club and was pivotal in transforming the organization into the United South County Democratic Club (USCDC). She has held several positions in USCDC, including Treasurer, Vice President, and President.

The amount of time and effort Ms. Gumm has expended for the betterment of her community is truly admirable and exhibits a level of passion worthy of recognition. It is with great pleasure that I honor, my dear friend, Annette Gumm.

IN HONOR OF REV. DR. BRITT
ARMANDO STARGHILL

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Rev. Dr. Britt